

**House of Representatives  
Children and Family Services  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
May 11	Half Day	Vancouver	Full Committee	Early Learning	Work Session
May 28	Half Day	Olympia	Full Committee	Child and Family Services Program Improvement Plan	Work Session
June	Half Day	South King County	Full Committee	Early Learning	Work Session
June	Half Day	Toppenish	Full Committee	Early Learning	Work Session
June 29	Half Day	Spokane	Joint Meeting w/ House Education Committee	Early Learning	Work Session
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Collaborative Decision Making 2. Community Services Block Grant	Work Session
September 22	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Research-Based Prevention and Early Intervention Programs 2. Guardianship	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Child and Family Services Program Improvement Plan 2. Early Intervention (Birth-to- Three) Services	Work Session

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**Project Title: Early Learning**

**Project Goal:**

Developing options for legislative action in the 2005 Legislative Session concerning early learning and child care programs and services across the state.

**Project Description:**

The committee will convene meetings and site visits around the state to hear from early learning and child care providers about issues and concerns relating to the provision of early learning and child care in Washington. The committee will utilize the information gathered at those meetings and site visits to develop possible legislation for the 2005 Legislative Session. The meeting to be convened in Spokane will be held jointly with the House Education Committee and members of the House Education Committee will be invited to the remaining meetings.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Four Work Sessions

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Cynthia Forland

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**Project Title: Child and Family Services Program Improvement Plan**

**Project Goal:**

Monitoring the state's child and family services Program Improvement Plan.

**Project Description:**

The committee will actively monitor the development and implementation of the state's Program Improvement Plan, which is required to address the areas assessed in the federal Child and Family Services Review in which the state did not achieve substantial conformity. The committee will convene a meeting early on in the interim, to be facilitated by NCSL staff, of interested legislators and the Children's Administration of the Department of Social and Health Services on the following: how areas in which Washington did not achieve substantial conformity compare with other states, what Washington can learn from how other states are addressing those same areas, and how legislators are/should be involved in the development and oversight of state's Program Improvement Plans. The committee will also hold a work session on the state's Program Improvement Plan toward the end of the interim to receive an update on the plan.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Two Work Sessions

**Completion Date:** Ongoing

**Staff Assigned:** Cynthia Forland

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**Project Title: Collaborative Decision Making**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitoring the Department of Social and Health Service's development of recommended policies and protocols concerning collaborative decision making.**

**Project Description:**

The 2003-05 operating budget requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to convene regional and local DSHS staff and community-based agency staff to develop recommended policies and protocols concerning collaborative decision making, including contracting, referrals, and resource allocation, and submit those recommendations to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2004. In monitoring DSHS' development of these policies and protocols, the committee will devote a work session to this topic.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Cynthia Forland

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**Project Title: Community Services Block Grant**

**Project Goal:**

**Conducting a legislative hearing in conjunction with the development of the biennial state plan for the Community Services Block Grant, as required by federal law.**

**Project Description:**

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is a federal, anti-poverty block grant that funds the operations of a state-administered network of local agencies, which create, coordinate, and deliver programs and services to low-income individuals. The CSBG is administered in Washington by the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development according to the state plan approved by the federal Department of Health and Human Services. In accordance with federal program requirements, the committee will devote a work session to the state's biennial plan for the CSBG.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session

**Completion Date:** September 30, 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Cynthia Forland

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**Project Title: Research-Based Prevention and Early Intervention Programs**

**Project Goal:**

Developing options for legislative action in the 2005 Legislative Session concerning research-based prevention and early intervention programs in the state.

**Project Description:**

The committee will convene a meeting to consider: the report to be issued by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy reviewing research assessing the effectiveness of prevention and early intervention programs concerning children and youth; and criteria to be developed by the Department of Social and Health Services at the Governor's direction for funding state-operated or contracted prevention and early intervention services. The meeting will include the members of the Work Group on Effective Family Intervention Strategies, which the committee convened during the 2003 interim, and will focus on possible legislative action for the 2005 Legislative Session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Cynthia Forland

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**Project Title: Guardianship**

**Project Goal:**

Developing options for legislative action in the 2005 Legislative Session concerning dependency guardianships.

**Project Description:**

In 2003, HB 2877, which eliminates dependency guardianships and defines a new category of guardianship, was introduced at the request of the Department of Social and Health Services but was not enacted. The committee will be considering possible legislative action for the 2005 Legislative Session concerning dependency guardianships. As part of its work, the committee will convene a meeting with stakeholders to consider the issue.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum

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**Project Title: Early Intervention (Birth-to-Three) Services**

**Project Goal:**

Developing options for legislative action in the 2005 Legislative Session concerning early intervention services in the state.

**Project Description:**

The goals of the Work Group on Deaf Education in Washington, which the committee convened over the 2003 interim, included ensuring that appropriate early intervention services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, spanning the spectrum of communication and educational options, are provided throughout the state. In 2004, HB 2765 was enacted, which establishes an advisory council in the Department of Social and Health Services for the purpose of advancing the development of a comprehensive and effective statewide system to provide prompt and effective early interventions for children in the state who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. The committee will convene a meeting with stakeholders to consider the provision of early intervention services throughout the state, with a focus on possible legislative action for the 2005 Legislative Session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Cynthia Forland

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## STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

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**Project Title: Children's Mental Health**

**Project Goal:**

Participation in the Joint Task Force on Mental Health.

**Project Description:**

Members of the committee will be involved in the joint legislative and executive task force on mental health services and delivery and financing, which is established in the 2003-05 operating budget. It is anticipated that the work of the Joint Task Force will take into account the work underway within the Department of Social and Health Services relating to children's mental health.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Cynthia Forland/Sonja Hallum

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**Project Title: Family Support Services for Families with Children with Developmental Disabilities**

**Project Goal:**

Developing options for legislative action in the 2005 Legislative Session concerning family support services.

**Project Description:**

The committee will consider the existing need for family support services in the state for families with children with developmental disabilities, as well as both existing and potential sources of funding for those services, with a focus on possible legislative action for the 2005 Legislative Session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Cynthia Forland

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**Project Title: Limited English Proficiency Pathway**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitoring funding and contracting for the Limited English Proficiency Pathway.**

**Project Description:**

The 2003-05 operating budget appropriates funds for the Department of Social and Health Services to maintain specialized employment services through the WorkFirst Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pathway program for refugees and other limited-English-proficient families and individuals who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), State Family Assistance, or Refugee Cash Assistance benefits. The committee will actively monitor funding and contracting for the LEP Pathway, with a focus on possible legislative action for the 2005 legislative session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Cynthia Forland

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**Project Title: Fircrest Professional Services**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitoring the Department of Social and Health Services' plans for the provision of professional services provided through Fircrest School to clients living in the community.**

**Project Description:**

The 2003-05 operating budget requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to provide a preliminary transition plan for the downsizing of Fircrest School to the fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature, which must include recommendations on ways to continue to provide some of the licensed professional services offered at Fircrest School to clients being served in community settings. Staff will monitor the development of DSHS' plans for the provision of professional services provided through Fircrest School to clients living in the community.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Cynthia Forland

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